

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 28, 2002 LB 112

would say that in all likelihood, if these people would have to be manacled and so forth, they probably shouldn't be out on this kind of a program in the first place, so I would support that. And I think that...I had the opportunity awhile back to go over to the penitentiary and to see what life is like at the penitentiary. I asked why so many people were doing nothing, and they said, well, there is nothing for them to do, and there was such a restriction on the activities that they could go out and work on. And so it's been with me ever since that time that we do need something that allows the people who are unfortunate enough to be in the penitentiary to have the opportunity to go out and to do something gainful. I think that we all know that one of the biggest items of depression we have are people who don't have enough to do, or don't have anything to do, and I think that creates a lot of our problems. I very much appreciate, Senator Baker, your bringing this particular bill. I think it's a step towards getting people to have the opportunity to engage within the society, and I think that's the only way we are ever going to reduce prison population, is to have these people not coming back. And one of the ways we get them to not coming back is to engage them in meaningful work and to get them into that frame of mind. So with that, I support both the amendment and the bill, itself.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I need to correct something I said before when I was talking about what they pay work detail, what these people make, but I also want to state that I agree with Senator Chambers' and Senator Don Pederson's statements made here, that if these people need to be restrained, then they shouldn't be out on community status anyway. It's not \$1.50 an hour they make, it's \$3.26 a day, work detail. The \$1.50 goes to another work program if they are working on industries that has to do with the Cornhusker State Industries inside the Corrections. Jack Falconer, the assistant director of Corrections, is here and I went back and asked him because I had some question about that, and it's \$3.26 a day is the most they can make on work detail. But, again, even with this small teeny bit of money that they make, they are still learning work ethics, and it's